

# AMERICAN FARMER.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICES CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint  
Agricolae." . . . VIRG.

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## AGRICULTURE.

From the Memoirs of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society.

### Notices for a Young Farmer,

Particularly on Worn Lands, &c. &c.

WITH NOTES BY THE EDITOR OF THE FARMER.

(Continued from No. 8, page 59.)

*Lime*; when, and how profitably applied. *Indian Corn*; modes of planting. *Rotting or decaying the sod* Harrow preferred to the plough, for cleaning and dressing corn. Some remarks on southern farming.

IV. You gain a season in the wholesome efficacy of *lime*, by spreading and harrowing it well in, on your fall-ploughed fallows. Its causticity is thus mitigated or destroyed by winter exposure; and you may the more safely use dung, the ensuing season, for your crops, without danger of injurious effects from hot lime.

If you plant *Indian Corn*, on either fall or spring ploughed sod fallow, (or any other) deeply tilled, (and it is the most desirable and cleaning crop,) plaster the hills—as they are technically called—or sow the gypsum over the whole field; and some do both, after the plants are sufficiently forward. The seed should be wetted and rolled in plaster or steeped in a decoction of Hellebore or Copperas; or, what produces surprising effect, a strong solution of Saltpetre; but do not soak or steep it too much. In dry weather, the germination is accelerated, by the steeping injuriously; so that the plume and radicles perish; and in long wet seasons, they rot. The sod having been broken up 5 to 7 inches deep; or if more, the better; requires shallow planting. If it be cut with a coulter harrow, the better will the crop thrive. Being unturned, the sod becomes of itself a manure. Although it may not entirely rot, its incapacity to vegetate is ensured; and the soil is left filled with decayed vegetable matter, auxiliary to the corn product, and a pabulum for appropriate manures. But frequent harrowing must not be neglected; whether you shall plant in squares or drills, and at what distances, depends much on the state of your field, the nature of your soil, and not a little on opinion; which varies much on this subject, and is frequently operated upon by success, in the mode which happens to be fortunate. Some have spoken favorably of planting Corn as early as it can well be got in the ground; and they do not fear the annoyance of late frosts. It might by this means be vigorous enough to resist the Grub, or grow after being cut off by them.

Some have succeeded in planting late, so that the Cut-worm is passing away before it sprouts. The first mode is more secure from early frosts in the autumn.

Unless its situation and circumstances forbid, lay your Cornfield level, rather than in ridges; that moisture, in light soils especially, may be retained, instead of passing away, and, if necessary, draw water furrows, to carry off accidental flooding by rains, or other causes. Cleanly farming is essentially necessary, with the hoe and common harrow, to prevent grass and weeds from growing; and to assist in rotting the sod. Use the plough little, if at all; and the harrows much. Ploughing up furrows to the Corn plants, is an impediment to the harrowing culture, carries off moisture from the plants, exposes the accumulations of earth soon to dry through, and is worse than useless. If you must ridge low and wet soils, still the hoe and common harrow should be diligently used. Pulverize your ground, and the plant will be nourished and supported by the length and vigour of multiplied roots, and never require hills, or elevated furrows.

Transplanting, from a seed bed, sown early, broad cast, in or convenient to your Corn field, or with supernumerary plants, from other hills, is far preferable to using seed corn for supplying defective hills, cut off by the grub, or otherwise vacant. Plants overtake and keep pace with those uninjured; but renewals with seed corn, seldom arrive at maturity.

Salt is used for destroying grubs, worms, &c.; and has been successful in killing, or banishing the corn grub. Old pickle, or refuse meat, or fish, dispersed in small quantities, in mole tracks, has banished moles from gardens, or fields.

It being the intent of these Notices, to recommend, not to dictate, it is deemed proper to mention, that Col. Taylor, of Virginia, (and his practice is followed by many southern farmers,) pursues a mode of cropping with *Indian Corn*, directly the reverse of the one herein recommended: and an account of it may be seen in his *Arator*. He breaks up, however deep; lays his field in high ridges,—possibly, his soil and surface may so require,—in a north and south direction; burying his coarse (corn-stalk) manure, to rot in his soil; and in succeeding Corn crops, after a lapse of some years, the rows are planted over the former deep furrows; the crowns of the new ridges, occupying the places of those furrows. Many pursue his practice, and speak favourably of it. To us, who prefer laying our fields level, for the scythe and grazing, this mode would not be eligible. It may in some soils, as it regards the culture of the Corn crop merely, have its advantages. It resembles in some particulars, Mr. Gregg's practice on wet heavy soil,

mentioned in our second volume. Col. Taylor's plan may be seen in his Essays on the subject. In this mode, deep ploughing is essential; and it is as much so in the level culture; for, with shallow ploughing, moisture would soon evaporate, though not so much as if ridged, and a greater surface exposed to drain and dry. Many who prefer ploughing in grain, lay their fields in broad lands, and harrow after ploughing in.

Wheresoever the harrow has been fairly tried, its advantages over the plough, in the Corn crop, have, been decisively shewn. Corn in drills, on a sod deeply ploughed in, the rows 4 feet apart, and the plants 18 inches assunder, and thereafter entirely cultivated with harrows, has produced crops, beyond the belief of those wedded to the old mode of culture. Some have found great advantages in the culture of Corn in wide rows; and potatoes, well manured, drilled between them.

It is evident, that this and other modes of practice herein mentioned, are calculated for farms of the extent deemed competent in our part of the Union; where permanent cleanliness, and valuable covers of grass, for hay and pasture, are contemplated. In southern sections, where the mere grain crop is the object, and vast extent of surface occupied; so that numbers of acres are multiplied to produce an aggregate, which might be had from a few; such details of operation for dressing and cleaning the soil, although highly assistant to the immediate crop, would be considered as inapplicable and unnecessary. But until in those districts, some such practices are used in less extensive husbandry, and more commonly introduced, landholders should not complain of broom-straw, and other noxious pests, overrunning and sterilizing their worn and finally abandoned fields; urged on their march to poverty, by double cropping, and rough farming. Great advantages might, however, be now taken of former mismanagement, by pursuing some such means to recover waste and abandoned lands, by using the spontaneous growths of scrubby timber, first for cover, after felling, and then burning it; as Col. Taylor has practised. See 1 vol. Philadelphia Memoirs, pages 32, 8, 9. He has not only set an encouraging example for farther experiments; but has afforded the strongest proofs of the benefits resulting from cover and fire, on soils. From experience in the like experiment, it could be shown, that his cover remained unnecessarily long unburnt.

If the numbers of Slaves are burthens on the southern landholders, in the farming districts; confining their attention to a better style of agriculture on a smaller scale, would relieve them. If emancipation or colonization be prudent and practicable, those emancipated or colonized,

might be spared, when fewer labourers were required in improved husbandry. If less land were occupied in exhausting culture, there would be a surplus, for a white population to cultivate to greater advantage. The improved state of the husbandry in some of the counties of Virginia, particularly Loudoun, is an example of peerless value. The plaster and clover culture has produced there, almost magical effects. Deep ploughing is much practised.

If you cannot lime, for the Corn crop, in the autumn, let it be done early in the spring. The harrows mix the lime with the soil, and should be frequently at work. Be not afraid of cutting the Corn roots; they send out fibres from the several parts which more than supply the deficiency occasioned by excision. Sucker your Corn, and do not sow winter grain among it—to the injury of both crops, as well as your land. Of all your crops, Indian Corn will the least bear neglect, and it amply rewards all our attention. It is not only the most valuable, take it with all its advantages, but it is, of all crops generally the most certain. If it fails, some most uncommon seasons of circumstances occur. We call it Corn, without its specific designation, for its pre-eminence. It is the best crop to subdue a stubborn, or clean a foul soil. It forces you to farm well; which counterbalances its exhaustion, in a very important degree.

Indian Corn is truly a great exhauster, however valuable it may otherwise be. It should therefore be only one of a course of crops, and not repeated, but at long intervals. When its turn arrives, it should be used as a *cleaning crop*; for which it is highly estimable, not only for its own, but for the benefit of its successors; which should be small grains and grasses. Whatever may be done in more fertile or new countries, old lands will not admit of frequent and uninterrupted successions of this crop.

*Stable and Yard Manure to be ploughed in.* Dung; remarks on it, and opinions as to the state in which it is most beneficially applied.

V. *Plough in your Barn-yard or Stable manure.* In what state dung should be applied, is a disputed question. Some plough it in, at an early stage of putrescence, and some when it is more advanced. The middle course is, perhaps, the best. To scarcity or other tap-roots, fresh dung is decidedly hostile. But the adverse opinions on this subject, as to other crops, are too diffuse, to be here inserted. You will find them in books, but the best lessons are to be gained by your own experience. Your well rotted compost, is indubitably best, for top dressings on either grain or grass. Yet fresh dung, as a top dressing, has its advocates. It is even believed by many, that using dung by itself, is wanton waste: and that it should be considered only as an ingredient, to give value and activity to other materials in composts. Much more apparently improbable revolutions in rural economy, have come to pass. Intelligent farmers hold opposite opinions. See, in *England*, Mr. Gregg's practice, 2d vol. Philadelphia Memoirs, 71, 72; and Col. Taylor's *Arator*. Read Sir H. Davy's Discussion upon this subject, and judge for yourself. See also, in Sir J. Sinclair's *Tour through Flanders*, 1815, an account of the practice of the Swiss Farmers: who soak their dung in water,

and apply it in a liquid state, to far greater advantage than crude dung.

The nature and qualities of the soils, and the kinds and description of manures have influence, no doubt, on opinions and practice. Climate and seasons have also their operations on manures. The most general opinions and practice, favour the use of *moderately rotted dung*. (a)

*Deep ploughing in breaking up. Sorrel and sorrel-ine acid. Foul or wet fallows. Chaff-bearing crops, not to succeed one another. Oats cut for hay, or sown for pasture. Oats and Indian Corn, for soiling. Vetches. Heligoland Bean. Thistles ploughed in. Fences. Timber. Line Fences.*

VI. *Break up deep*, and be not afraid of turning up barren soil; when the nature of your ground admits of this operation. Shallow ploughing up the *vegetable mould*, deceptively serves a turn, when it is not exhausted; and its exhaustion is the certain consequence of this ill-judged tillage. But the air contains the principal store of materials for the food of plants; (b) and will impregnate the substratum, if exposed a due length of time; especially in winter, when it receives much, and parts with little; the heat of the sun being then feeble, and incapable of dispelling what the soil receives from the air.—Those who object to *deep*, much more to *trench* ploughing, want experience sufficiently to test their benefits. They have mismanaged experiments, or have been in too great haste to crop their grounds. The substratum must be exposed, for a time necessary to receive the influences of the atmosphere. Indian Corn, with lime, is by far the best crop, after *trenching*, particularly because it requires the soil to be constantly stirred and exposed. True, there are some soils, which neither deep nor trench ploughing will benefit; and every Farmer should accommodate his practice to the nature and qualities of his soil. Over-cropping and shallow ploughing, with exhausting crops in succession, frequently cause overwhelming growths of *Sorrel*, to infest ill managed fields. Lime is the only remedy; and you will see in Lord Dundonald's "Connexion," &c. the good effects of lime which destroys the sorrel, and produces the *sorrel-ine acid*, highly friendly to wholesome and profitable vegetation. Green sorrel grows on fertile soils; but the red sorrel is a certain mark of sterility.

Never sow a foul or weedy fallow, to save a ploughing; or a wet one, to save time: nor sow, or stubble in, one chaff-bearing crop, immediately to follow another. Such farming may succeed for a time, under particular circumstances; but in the end it will produce only a crop of regret.

If you are deficient in mowing grounds, Oats may be sown on your fallow, and cut for hay, before ripening the seed; and in such case they do not exhaust; nor does any plant in this stage of its growth. And see Mr. W. Young's paper on the great advantages of Oat-pasture, 2d vol. Philadelphia Memoirs, 186. Oats and Indian Corn are sometimes sown together, in broad cast; and cut for soiling, or to be ploughed in, as green manure. It is difficult to dry them, for winter provender. Thistles, or other succulent plants ploughed in, fertilize wonderfully, when left long enough to ferment, and become putrescent.

If any covering crop, for summer fallows,

which does not exhaust like Oats, could be suggested, a great reformation would ensue. *Vetches*, or some such plant might be substituted, if the culture were better understood. The *Heligoland Bean*, very productive, is now esteemed, in *England*, as a cleaning crop, to precede Wheat. A spring cover of *Peas*, of a species ripening in time, is very beneficially used to precede wheat, in the autumn. If the pease fall, and the crop is likely to fail, they may be ploughed in, as excellent green manure.

Keep good Fences, and make and repair them, when other business is interrupted. They not only secure your own crops, but ensure the good will of your neighbours, by preventing teasing contests.—Let no weeds, or nurseries for pests, remain near them; and avoid throwing stones, or other obstructions to the scythe on the edges of your fields, or mowing grounds. They prevent cleaning their borders, and afford opportunities of growing, to noxious weeds and other pests; forming, finally, scrubby hedge rows, to disgrace them.

Be avaricious of your TIMBER, and fence your wood lands, to protect the young growths. Waste and negligence in this all essential article, soon produce irretrievable want.

LIVE FENCES are becoming more and more indispensable; and those composed of the New-castle Thorn (*crataegus crus galli*), will be found the best, for hardihood, durability, constant verdure, and numbers and strength of the thorns. Live fences, as well as orchards, and all fruit trees, demand the earliest attention; and will be growing into profit, whilst other improvements are progressing. If to the ditch and mound faced with stone, which many deem the best, (because it affords immediate protection both to your hedge plants and to your field,) you prefer plain hedging; cultivate strips along your hedge, from year to year, well manured, and plant potatoes, and your thorns will thrive luxuriantly.—In a few continuations of the potato culture, you will gradually reach and invigorate the whole extent of your hedge. Let no person begin a hedge, who will not nurse and foster it, in every stage of its growth.

(To be continued.)

#### NOTES.

(a) In what particular state, that is, at which point in its process of fermentation and decomposition, manure is applied with the greatest advantage, has occasioned much discussion without having established any general conviction, or settled principles on the subject. The great difficulty in the way of coming to a satisfactory conclusion, lies in this:—That the advocates of "hot muck," and of "well rotted manure," have not previously agreed upon their *data*: and since men are apt to arrive at different conclusions, even when starting from the same premises, arising from the imperfections of human perceptions: how much more apt are they to differ in their conclusions, when they have not agreed upon their premises. Men turn back to back, and walking each after his own nose, meet face to face at the antipodes; not so in reasoning.—If Agriculturists would settle the question, in what state manure is more effectually applied, they must agree as to the *kind of manure*, the *quality of the soil*, the *nature of the crop*, the



season, &c. &c. For example, the manure of animals that have two stomachs, and chew the cud, as is the case with most animals, that have no front teeth in their upper jaw, such as the cow, sheep, &c. &c. is ejected in a much more advanced state of putrefaction than that of the horse, &c.—Again, sandy land would probably require manure to be applied in a very different state from that which would be suitable for very stiff land;—and again, a small crop, which is of delicate fibre, and of rapid growth, would perhaps, be destroyed by an unfermented, hot muck, which would prove very suitable for Indian Corn, Tobacco, &c.—And lastly, this hot muck, applied advantageously to Indian Corn, in a wet season, would probably burn and destroy it in a dry one; so that these disputes about the relative superiority of hot muck, and well rotted manure, are not likely to conduce to the establishment of any settled opinions, until these previous data are agreed upon. The same remarks may be made as to many other contested points in agriculture.

The most heavily manured lot of ground we ever saw, was, some years since, at McCoys, on the Washington road; it ought to have produced 50 or 60 bushels to the acre; it was the manure taken immediately from the stable of stage-horses; the season was dry; the Corn was "burnt up," and the field did not produce half a crop.—It does not follow, as a general principle, that hot muck is not a suitable manure for Corn.

*Edit. Amer. Farmer.*

(b) What constitutes the chief food of plants, is a point much disputed by gentlemen of science, who have taken great pains to investigate the subject. For a well supported opinion, contrary to the one here expressed, and to the opinion of Col. Taylor, of Virginia, (for it seems that he and Judge Peters agree on this, better than on some other points,) we refer the reader to a learned and able communication from the pen of Dr. Joseph E. Meuse, dated Cambridge, Dorset County, Dec. 1st, 1818, addressed to H. Maynard, Esq. President of the Agricultural Society, at Annapolis, originally published in the Maryland Gazette, and copied in the Maryland Censor, of the 27th Jan. last. That very interesting essay, concludes in these words:—

*Edit. Amer. Farmer.*

"From the above view of the subject, I conceive myself justified in the conclusion, that Arator's hypothesis is erroneous; that the atmosphere cannot be considered the great matrix of manures in his sense and meaning of the term; that it does not, in its natural constitution, contain most of the principles of vegetation; and that it is not capable, from its texture, of holding extraneous matter sufficient for their 'whole or chief sustenances,' that the earth contains and administers the adapted nutriment; and upon this important truth, the scientific agricultor must found his hypothesis; and by it, the practical farmer must direct his experiments; otherwise, the phenomena of vegetation daily presented to his view, will be misconstrued: his premises radically false; his deductions will lead him into endless error, and his fancied lights the more fully observe his vision.

I design at a future period, to demonstrate that Arator's false theory has led him into prac-

tical errors, which, with the sanction of their respectable authority, may operate to retard both the science and the art of agriculture."

FROM THE VERMONT REPUBLICAN.

### PRUNING FRUIT TREES.

The following remarks, we believe, are from a source which entitles them to the attention of farmers.

*Messrs. Ide & Aldrich,*

I observed in your present week's paper, a call on farmers, by saying that prudent ones will not let this season of the year pass, without pruning their fruit trees, and stating the good effects it will have, &c. The good effect, of seasonable and proper trimming of fruit trees, is obvious to every person who has paid much attention to the culture of fruit; but from observations I have made for twenty or thirty years past, I am thoroughly convinced that the former method of pruning trees, in March and April, is very injurious to orchards, and particularly to nurseries, which have been long neglected, and require much trimming. I have observed small trees, which have, in consequence of a close trimming in March, died by reason of the drying winds penetrating the wounds so deep, and letting a quantity of the sap and moisture escape before the sap begins to move up and supply the loss. In this case, the bark adheres to the wood, in such a manner, that it is not in the power of the sap again to ascend; and of course, the sappling dies. But this is not apt to be the case with larger trees, when deprived of those supernumerary branches, which in ordinary cases will require to be taken off: they will nevertheless suffer great damage by such amputations at this season of the year. If a limb of any considerable size is cut several inches from the body, in March, the stump will become dry, and crack open nearly to the body; and before the new growth can heal over the wound, the stump will rot, and this defection will soon penetrate to the heart of the tree, and the whole will soon decay. Whoever will take the trouble to observe old orchards which formerly were trimmed in March, will find, that almost every instance in which a limb of any considerable size had been taken off, instead of the wound being healed, and the tree sound and healthy, a large cavity is found, beginning at the wound, and rapidly increasing towards the heart, which soon deprives the tree of health and vigour. In almost every instance, where I have taken off a limb in June, when the tree is full of sap, if the stump be left smooth, the new growth immediately commences its healing operations, and instead of decaying and dying, the wound is soon healed over, and the tree remains sound and flourishing. I believe the best time in the year for trimming trees, is when they possess the greatest quantity of sap, which I think is not far from the middle of June.

Many farmers do not commence trimming their young orchards so soon by five, and in some cases, by ten years, as they ought. They say the tree grows well and bears well, and why should I meddle with it? The fact is, many of

our orchards are set in good fertile land, and their growth is rapid, and in many instances, send out three or four times as many branches as the root is able to support in old age: and if they are suffered to remain, the tree will soon dwindle, and become shrubby, and die: or, if the branches are taken off when they are large, the tree will be much more injured, than it would have been, had they been taken off smaller.

*Woodstock, April 22, 1818.*

E. P.

FROM THE PRACTICAL AMERICAN GARDENER.

### For the Month of June.

*Melons and Cucumbers.*

All the melons and cucumbers that have hitherto been under the protection of glasses or paper frames, may now have them removed, and be fully exposed to the open air. Refreshment of water will be necessary occasionally, and particularly to cucumbers.

Keep them entirely free from weeds, and hoe the ground between the plants frequently; draw the earth gently to the stems of all, and lay the vines off in a regular and neat manner; prune luxuriances, by nipping off the runners; lay a shingle under each fruit of the melons.

In the last week of this month, sow general crops of melons and cucumbers for pickling.

*Water Melons, Squashes and Pumpkins.*

These plants should be thinned now, if not done before, leaving but three of the best in each hill; draw the earth, with a hoe, up to the stems of the plants, as high as the seed leaves; keep the ground loose, and perfectly clear of weeds.

*Sweet Potatoes.*

Sweet potatoes must have earth drawn around the hills, to encourage the growth of the roots; lay off the vines as regularly as well may be, and keep them free from weeds.

*Cauliflowers.*

The early cauliflowers will now produce their heads; care must be had to break down the leaves, to preserve the flowers from sun and rain.

Draw the earth round the plants, in the form of a basin, to retain the water, which should be frequently given them plentifully, which will greatly enlarge the size of the flowers; this is absolutely necessary in dry seasons.

The cauliflower plants, from late sowing, should now be planted out finally; if not done in rainy weather, give them water after planting, and lay a large leaf of cabbage, as a shade, over them,

*Cabbages and Savoy.*

Take the opportunity of moist or cloudy weather, to plant out a full crop of the late spring sowings of cabbages, savoy, and of the red pickling cabbage.

You may now sow seeds of any of the early heading kinds, as the early Smyrna, York, Sugar-loaf, or Battersea, for autumn.

*Brussels' Sprouts, Jerusalem Kale, Turnip-Cabbage, and Broccoli.*

The early plants, of either of the above kinds, may now be planted out, as directed in May;

the late sown crops should be thinned, and those pulled out, planted in a nursery bed, four inches asunder, giving them a good watering when planted, and afterwards occasionally, until well rooted.

Early in this month, sow some more broccoli seed, for a succession crop, to produce their heads in February.

#### *Celery.*

Celery plants may now be planted out in trenches; mark out the trenches by line, ten or twelve inches wide, and allow three feet between trench and trench; dig each trench a moderate spade deep, and spread the earth, dug out, equally on each side of the trench; put about three inches of very rotten dung into the trench, then pare the sides, and dig these with about two inches of the under mould, incorporating all together; then put in the plants, in the middle of the trench, in single rows, about six inches asunder; trim them before planting. When completed, give them a plentiful watering, and shade them, by placing sticks across the trenches, and over these put pine boards, until they strike root, and begin to grow, when the boards are to be taken off.

When the plants are grown to the height of eight or nine inches, they should have their first landing; this must be done by pulverizing the earth, and laying it gently around their sides, leaving the hearts and tops free; repeating it, every few days, until they are blanched of a sufficient height.

#### *Peas.*

A few peas may still be sown, and if the season prove moist, they may produce.

#### *Asparagus.*

The asparagus now running up to seed, should be cleared of weeds; also the seedling plants.

#### *Transplanting Leeks.*

Manure and dig the ground well, then draw from the seed-beds the strongest plants, trim the roots, and cut off the tops of the leaves; plant them in rows a foot asunder, and six inches apart from plant, in the rows; insert their shanks into the earth up to their leaves.

#### *Lettuces.*

Sow and transplant lettuces. Let this be done in moist weather, or else water them plentifully.

#### *Small Sallading.*

Continue to sow cresses and other small sallading, once a week. Water them often in dry weather.

#### *Kidney-Beans.*

Sow successive crops of kidney-beans, in the beginning, middle, and latter end of this month. Land up the kidney-beans sown last month.

#### *Carolina and Lima Beans.*

Hoe and clean the ground between these beans; see that all are properly supported with sticks.

#### *Radishes.*

A few of the salmon and short top purple radishes may be sown; also some of the white and red turnip-rooted kinds. Towards the middle or end of the month, sow a good crop of the white and black winter radish, to draw early in autumn.

#### *Carrots, Paranihs, and Onions.*

The crops of carrots, paranihs, and onions, must now be kept clean of weeds, and if the onions incline more to tops than roots, lay the tops down

#### *Beets.*

The crops of beets should be kept very clean from weeds, and the plants thinned to eight or nine inches apart from plant, if not done before.

#### *Endive.*

Transplant endive that is now of a sufficient size. Sow another crop of curled endive, about the middle and latter end of the month.

#### *Okra, Tomatoes, Egg-Plant.*

Earth up the crops of okra; where too thick, thin them. Keep the ground clean from weeds.

In the early part of this month, plant out tomatoes and egg-plants.

#### *Capsicums.*

In the early part of this month, plant out full crops of the capsicums from the seed-beds.

#### *Cardoons.*

Plant out cardoons in a bed of rich earth, at the distance of four feet, every way, from one another; one good plant is sufficient in a place, as they rise to the height of 3 or 4 feet, and require a considerable quantity of earth to blanch them.

#### *Plant Pot-Herbs, &c.*

Plant out from the seed-beds, for edgings of the borders, or in beds, plants of thyme, hysop, sage, sweet margoram, winter savory, &c. &c. Let this be done if possible, in moist and cloudy weather.

#### *Gathering Herbs.*

All kinds of herbs, such as mint, balm, clary, lavender, sage, rosemary, &c. that are gathered for drying, or for distillation, should be cut off, when just beginning to come into full flower, and laid in the shade to dry gradually.

#### *To destroy Weeds.*

As the sun, at this season of the year, is powerful, give the ground a complete hoeing, where it can be done; the weed will more easily be destroyed, and by stirring the earth around the plants, particularly after a shower of rain, it will refresh them.

If the introduction of the sugar-cane, into Italy (in rivalry of efforts making in France) is successful, the Italians will boastingly say to the French, "Your sugar is beet."

## Agricultural Communications.

TO THE EDITOR,

Dated—Hagerstown, May 17, 1819.

SIR,

I have met with two or three numbers of the *Farmer* at our Reading-Room, and am desirous of appropriating to myself a work of so much general utility. I wish to be considered a subscriber, as from the commencement of the work, and will be glad to receive all the numbers.

How comes it, that in a county more distinguished than the most of its sisters for skill and attention, in and to husbandry, your subscription list has not been seen? I am of opinion, that an active agent might obtain for your paper, hand-some encouragement here: it is very generally, among all whom I see, highly spoken of.

At present, though we make excellent crops, every son treads in his father's precise footsteps, and our whole system of agriculture depends on the phases of the moon, and the signs of the zodiac, as marked in the large Dutch Almanac.

We plant, we sow, we reap and mow; we fell trees, we make shingles, we roof our houses, secure bacon, make fences, spread manure, when the moon is auspicious. If we are ready before her ladyship, we wait the happy moment when her aspect shall say, proceed. Dr. Crawford's system of unruly vermiculi in the blood, led him to the same course of practice, as was pursued by those who damned his animalcule and ascribed fever to other causes: so our *Lunacy* leads to results as happy as those which flow from the theories of our neighbours.

I am willing to render to Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's; to the moon the moon's—but I confess, I should like to see her power somewhat circumscribed, and the limits of her reign ascertained. I have always ascribed great influence to the genial sun, but I assure you it is all moonshine, here.

#### NOTE.

A thought has occurred to us, which we may some day put in execution—to give extracts from the numerous letters we receive from all parts of the United States. They would indicate the estimation in which agriculture is held; its present state, and the temper and habits of the people in regard to it, in various parts and climates of our country. The foregoing is so full of wit and satirical observation on the prejudices of the people in the wealthiest and most improved part of the state, that we cannot help throwing it into our paper. We have felt particularly anxious to enlist in our cause, the services of gentlemen of experience in Washington and Frederick Counties. These have the reputation of being the most fertile and best cultivated portions of the state. The means by which this enviable condition and honourable reputation has been acquired—the systems pursued, if described in detail, could not fail to promote, essentially, the improvement of the lower counties; we hope our friends there, will not "hide their lights;"—for example, we should be glad to have an extract from the Register of the produce of some of the Washington County Farmers. Verbal statements have been often made, which the lower county Farmers refuse to credit, perhaps because they reflect on their own bad and slovenly management. If some young farmers, in the lower part of the state, who live below the great mail road line, running east and west, and see but little of the world—if, we say, they could summon up the courage to cross that line in June or July, and make a short tour through Washington, Frederick, and some portions of Pennsylvania, it would pay them ten times over the expense, by the certain improvement of all their husbandry practices, and of course, be an increase in the value and productiveness of their land and their labour for the balance of their lives; but if this would involve too violent a departure from their old jog-trot habits, we would advise them, to purchase by subscription, a small farm in every ten miles square, (about the usual extent of their observation) and then procure some Pennsylvania, or Frederick County Farmers to take possession, in fee simple, of these central farms. They would soon find, if they would learn, on any terms, that the enhancement in the value of their own lands, by its increased fertility, would pay them a good



interest on the stock invested in the pattern farm. Should this plan be adopted, the Editor of the *American Farmer* will advertise gratuitously for what we might call a farming schoolmaster; and he has little doubt that some of the farmers in Chester County, worth their \$100,000, who drive their wagons to market, might be induced to spare one of their sons from the plough, to go down and give lessons on the art of making manure, clover, butter and money, and abundance and good health.

A gentleman mentioned to us the other day, an occurrence to convey an idea of the habits and condition of a certain neighbourhood—he said he met on the road, going to a neighbouring village, an old-fashioned, imported coach, drawn by two half starved horses, driven by a naked negro slave, conveying a live hog, to buy a jug of rum!

What a picture was there of aristocracy, poverty, laziness, bad management, love of luxury, ruins of fallen grandeur, &c. &c. &c.!!!

*Ed. Farmer.*

#### FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

MR. EDITOR,

In compliance with your urgent request, I proceed to state the substance of my remarks, in conversation with you, concerning the effects of certain kinds of feed on the constitutions of the hog and the cow.

And, first of the hog: I have observed that the common pot liquor, from the boiling of pork or bacon, to be injurious to confined hogs, and of no benefit (if not an injury) to those running at large. In my opinion, it produces a disposition to mange. I think that the large hogs, fed in Boston, by Mr. Patterson, with kitchen swill, must have had but little pork in its composition.

And next of the cow. I was informed, by an old gentleman who practised the veterinary art in Baltimore, for several years before his death, that he believed that most of the complaints of the cows in Baltimore, originated from feeding on slops, composed in part of the boilings of beef and pork. I bought some Baltimore cows one fall, and found them much weaker and more difficult to winter, for their appearance, than any I ever fed; and it is my opinion, that this disposition was produced by feeding on such slops as I have above described. And I am of the opinion, that it is contrary to nature, and injurious to the health and constitution of any animal to feed on its own kind. The best feed I have ever given to hogs is milk; and it is, at the same time, the worst for dogs. Rich pot liquor will fatten dogs, and kill hogs. If these observations are considered worthy a place in your paper, you may insert them.

A ROUGH FARMER.

*St. Domingo Farm, May 21, 1819.*

NOTE.—The facts and reasoning of our esteemed correspondent, would seem to be confirmed by the known aversion of carnivorous birds and beasts of prey, to feeding on their own kind. Naturalists tell us, that birds which feed on carrion, are most fond of dead animals which bear the nearest resemblance in character and pro-

pensities to themselves; but they refuse to draw subsistence from the inanimate remains of their own kind. The buzzard will feed on the dead hog; the dog on the carcass of the dead horse; but buzzard will not eat buzzard, nor will dog eat dog. Every thing in life has its enemies, and its victims; but it would appear to be incompatible with the standing ordinances of nature, that any order of animated beings should derive the means of life, and prosper by the consumption of its own kind: in a word, that it should be interested in the destruction of its own species, implies a contradiction in the order of things.

In the human family we know, that nothing is more injurious to health, or more offensive to the sense, than the effluvia which escapes from the body of our own kind; hence arises, in a great degree, the unhealthiness of jails, birth-decks, &c. &c. Nothing, it is said, is more disgusting than such places when not well ventilated; and it is, we believe, the settled opinion of medical men, that man would live longer in close confinement with any other animal, than with man. *Consumptive patients* have, for their benefit, been lodged in stables; and their presence has been thought to be hurtful to their own family, confined and too closely lodged in the same room.

There is no doubt, that horses are often diseased, by being kept too much crowded in stables, not well aired. We make these hasty remarks on the letter of our correspondent, to show the reasonableness of the facts; of the truth of his own assertions, we have no more doubt, than we should of our own experience. The common opinion is, that pot liquor is very wholesome and fattening to hogs; and so it may be, because a very great proportion of it is the liquor of other than hog meat; and because, as is known to be the case, it is made into a swill which contains many other nutritious ingredients. But let those who would make the experiment, and it is well worthy of being made, let them give a hog for a short time, the liquor of hog meat only, or to a cow, beef soup, of which much is given to them in towns, and we question if it would not be very soon discovered, that the effects would be such as the "rough," but very intelligent and observing farmer, has described.

*Ed. Farmer.*



*The Velocipede, or Swift Walker.*

We furnish our readers with a representation of the Velocipede and a particular description of it, taken from the London Observer, which is the best we have met with.

This truly original machine was the invention

of Baron Charles De Draais, master of the woods and forests of H. R. H. the Grand Duke of Baden. The account given of it by the inventor, of its nature, and properties—is,

1. That on the well maintained post-road, it will travel up hill, as fast as an active man can walk.

2. On a plain, even after a heavy rain, it will go six or seven miles an hour, which is as swift as a courier.

When roads are dry and firm, it runs on a plain at the rate of eight or nine miles an hour, which is equal to a horse's gallop.

4. On a descent, it equals a horse at full speed.

Its theory is founded on the application of a wheel to the action of a man in walking.

With respect to the economy of power, this invention may be compared to that very ancient one of carriages. As a horse draws, in a well constructed carriage, both the carriage and its load much easier than he could carry the load alone on his back; so a man conducts, by means of the Velocipede, his body easier than if he had its whole weight to support on his feet. It is equally incontestible; that the Velocipede, as it makes but one impression, or rut, may always be directed in the best part of a road. On a hard road, the rapidity of the Velocipede resembles that of an expert skater; as the principles of the two motions are the same. In truth, it runs a considerable distance while the rider is inactive, and with the same rapidity as when his feet are in motion; and in a descent, it will beat the best horses in a great distance, without being exposed to the risks incidental to them, as it is guided by the mere gradual motion of the fingers, and may be instantly stopped by the feet.

It consists of two wheels, one behind the other, connected by a perch, on which a saddle is placed, for the seat of the traveller. The front wheel is made to turn on a pivot, and is guided in the same manner as a bath chair.—On a cushion in front, the fore-arm is rested; and by this means, the instrument and the traveller are kept in equilibrio.

#### *Its Management.*

The traveller having placed himself in the position represented in the cut, his elbows extended, and his body inclined a little forwards must place his arms on the cushion, and preserve his equilibrium by pressing lightly on that side which appears to be rising. The rudder (if it may be so called) must be held by both hands, which are not to rest on the cushion, that they may be at full liberty, as they are essential to the conduct of the machine, as the arms are to the maintenance of the balance of it (attention will soon produce sufficient dexterity for this purpose) then placing the feet lightly on the ground, long but very slow steps are to be taken, in a right line, at first; taking care to avoid turning the toes out, lest the heel should come in contact with the hind wheel. It is only after having acquired dexterity in the equilibrium and direction of the Velocipede, that the attempt to increase the motion of the feet, or to keep them elevated while it is in rapid motion ought to be made.

The saddle may be raised or lowered, as well as the cushion, at pleasure; thus suited to the height of various persons.

A new invented hobby-horse has been put into

operation in England. The road from Ipswich to Whitton is travelled every evening by three pedestrian hobby-horses; and the distance, which is three miles, is performed in fifteen minutes.

FROM THE PHILADELPHIA UNION.

Important to Stone Masons.

**Mortar.**—It is well known, that mortar is composed of quick lime and sand, reduced to a paste by water. When dry it becomes as hard as stone, and as durable; and adhering with great tenacity to the surfaces of the stones which it is employed to cement, a whole wall becomes nothing else than one solid stone. But this effect is produced very imperfectly, unless the mortar is skilfully prepared: a circumstance too little understood, or too little attended to by those who generally have charge of the preparation. The following directions may be useful to mechanics who work in mortar.

"The lime should be pure, perfectly free from carbonic acid, and in the state of a very fine powder; the sand should be free from clay, and partly in the state of fine sand, partly in that of gravel; the water should be pure, and if previously saturated with lime, so much the better. The best proportions, according to the experience of Dr. Higgins, are three parts of fine sand, four parts of coarse sand, one part of quick lime, recently slacked, and as little water as possible.

The stony consistence, which mortar acquires, is owing partly to the absorption of carbonic acid, but principally to the combination of part of the water with the lime; this last circumstance explains the reason why. If to common mortar, one fourth part of lime, reduced to powder, without being slacked, is added, the mortar, when dry, acquires much greater solidity than it otherwise would. This was first proposed by Lorient; and a number of experiments were afterwards made by Movern. The proportions which this philosopher found to answer best, are the following:—

Fine sand, - - - - -	0,3
Cement of well baked bricks, - - -	0,3
Slack lime, - - - - -	0,2
Unslacked lime, - - - - -	0,2

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The same advantages may be obtained by using as little water as possible in slacking the lime.

Higgins found, that the addition of burnt bones improved mortar, by giving it tenacity, and rendering it less apt to crack in drying; but they ought never to exceed one fourth part of the lime employed.

When a little manganese is added to mortar, it acquires the important property of hardening under water, so that it may be employed in constructing those edifices which are constantly exposed to the action of water. Lime-stone is often combined with manganese; in that case, it becomes brown by calcination."—*Thomson's Chemistry.*

Derivation of the word "Corset."

Some twenty years ago, a fat English lady, having visited Paris, obtained from a milliner a certain article of dress, much in vogue among belles and feminine beaux. On her return, all the fat ladies were smitten with envy, to see her

shape elegantly improved into that of an hour-glass. She lost no time in exhibiting her exquisite person at a ball; but in the middle of the waltz, swooned away. Her clothes were soon unlaced, and the cause of her fainting discovered. "O la!" exclaimed a dozen of her female friends, "what is that you wear?" "O curse it!" replied she, and immediately hurried out of the room. The words of the lady, she being of fashionables the most fashionable, were decisive. Curses, or, as they are now termed, *corsets*, became the order of the day; and although many a simple girl has since had occasion to give them their original appellation, they still appear to stand their ground.

How to make Starch.

To make starch from wheat, the grain is steeped in cold water until it becomes soft, and yields a milky juice by pressure; it is then put into sacks of linen, and pressed in a vat filled with cold water; as long as any milky juice exudes, the pressure is continued; the fluid gradually becomes clear, and a white powder subsides, which is starch.—*Davy's Elements of Agricultural Chemistry.*

To purify Rancid Butter.

Melt it with a slow fire, in a well glazed earthen vessel, to which put soft water, working them well together; and when it is cold, take away the curd and the whey at the bottom: do it a second and a third time in rose water, always working them very well together. The butter, thus clarified, will be of the sweetest delicious taste.

The president of the Berkshire Agricultural Society, has published the following letter, addressed to him by general John Armstrong, on the subject of the Canadian thistle:

Red Hook, April, 27, 1819.

Sir,

Finding, by a publication, under your signature, as president of the Agricultural Society of Berkshire, that it is a desideratum with that body to discover "the means of extirpating the Canada thistle in an economical way, practicable to farmers in general," I have thought it would not be improper to give you the result of my experience on that head—without, however, wishing to be considered a candidate for your premium.

Three years ago, a labourer pointed out to me a piece of ground on my farm, covered with the Canada thistle. He was unable to suggest any means of killing it, but remarked, that it might be kept from spreading, by heaping and burning upon it buck-wheat or other straw. As this method was but a palliative, I pursued another, and this was, to pour slowly upon it the fish, beef and pork pickle of my winter provisions. In a few days, there was not an appearance of vegetation of any kind on the earth to which the pickle had been applied, and from that day to this, the thistles have not re-appeared.

While thinking on this subject, I had determined (had the pickle failed) to try apple pumace, spread thinly over the thistles—knowing that malic acid would destroy the most vigorous, tap-rooted plants.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient, humble servant,  
JOHN ARMSTRONG.  
*Thomas Melville, Jr. Esq.*

*Dr. Franklin's plan for studying languages; hints on this subject.—His entrance into public life—first turn of his thoughts on public affairs.—His account of the arrival, character, and preaching of the celebrated Mr. Whitefield.*

"In the conduct of my newspaper, I carefully excluded all libelling and personal abuse, which is of late years become so disgraceful to our country.—Whenever I was solicited to insert any thing of that kind, and the writers pleaded (as they generally did) the liberty of the press; and that a newspaper was like a stage-coach, in which any one who would pay had a right to a place; my answer was, that I would print the piece separately, if desired, and the author might have as many copies as he pleased, to distribute himself; but that I would not take upon me to spread his detraction; and that having contracted with my subscribers to furnish them with what might be either useful or entertaining, I could not fill their papers with private altercations in which they had no concern, without doing them manifest injustice.—Now, many of our printers make no scruple in gratifying the malice of individuals, by false accusations of the fairest characters among ourselves, augmenting animosity even to the producing of duels; and are moreover so indiscreet as to print scurrilous reflections on the government of neighbouring states, and even on the conduct of our best national allies, which may be attended with the most pernicious consequences. These things I mention as a caution to young printers, and that they be encouraged not to pollute the presses, and disgrace their profession by such infamous practices, but refuse steadily, as they may see, by my example; that such a course of conduct will not on the whole, be injurious to their interests."

"I had begun in 1733 to study languages; I soon made myself so much a master of the French, as to be able to read the books of that language with ease; I then undertook the Italian: an acquaintance, who was also learning it, used often to tempt me to play chess with him: finding this took up too much of the time I had to spare for study, I at length refused to play any more, unless on this condition, that the victor in every game should have a right to impose a task, either of parts of grammar, to be got by heart, or in translations, &c. which tasks the vanquished was to perform upon honour before our next meeting, as we played pretty equally, we thus beat one another into that language. I afterwards, with a little pains-taking, acquired as much of the Spanish as to read their books also. I have already mentioned that I had only one year's instruction in a Latin school, and that when very young, after which I neglected that language entirely. But when I had attained an acquaintance with the French, Italian, and Spanish, I was surprised to find, on looking over a Latin Testament, that I understood more of that language than I had imagined; which encouraged me to apply myself again to the study of it, and I met with the more success, as those preceding languages had greatly smoothed my way. From



these circumstances, I have thought there was some inconsistency in our common mode of teaching languages. We are told that it is proper to begin first with the Latin, and having acquired that, it will be more easy to attain those modern languages which are derived from it; and yet we do not begin with the Greek, in order more easily to acquire the Latin. It is true, that if we can clamber and get to the top of a staircase, without using the steps, we shall more easily gain them in descending; but certainly, if we begin with the lowest, we shall with more ease ascend to the top; and I would therefore offer it to the consideration of those who superintend the education of our youth, whether, since many of those who begin with the Latin, quit the same, after spending some years without having made any great proficiency, and what they have learned, becomes almost useless, so that their time has been lost—it would not have been better to have begun with the French, proceeding to the Italian, and Latin. For though, after spending the same time they should quit the study of languages, and never arrive at the Latin, they would, however, have acquired another tongue or two, that being in modern use, might be serviceable to them in common life.

"My first promotion was, my being chosen, in 1736, clerk of the general assembly. The choice was made that year without opposition; but the year following, when I was again proposed; (the choice like that of the members being annual) a new member made a long speech against me, in order to favour some other candidate. I was, however, chosen, which was the more agreeable to me, as besides the pay for the immediate service of clerk, the place gave me a better opportunity of keeping up an interest among the members, which secured to me the business of printing the votes, laws, paper-money, and other occasional jobs for the public, that on the whole were very profitable. I therefore did not like the opposition of this new member, who was a gentleman of fortune and education, with talents that were likely to give him in time great influence in the house, which indeed afterwards happened. I did not, however, aim at gaining his favour by paying any servile respect to him; but after some time, took this other method. Having heard that he had in his library, a certain very scarce and curious book, I wrote a note to him, expressing my desire of perusing that book, and requesting that he would do me the favour of lending it to me for a few days. He sent it immediately; and I returned it in a week, with another note, expressing strongly my sense of the favour. When we next met in the house, he spoke to me, (which he had never done before) and with great civility; and he ever after manifested a readiness to serve me on all occasions, so that we became great friends, and our friendship continued until death. This is another instance of the truth of an old maxim I had learned, which says, "He that has once done you a kindness, will be more ready to do you another than he whom you yourself have obliged." And it shows how much more profitable it is prudently to remove, than to resent, return, and continue inimical proceedings."

I began now to turn my thoughts to public affairs, beginning however with small matters.

The city watch was one of the first things that I conceived to want regulation. It was managed by the constables of the respective wards in turn; the constable summoned a number of housekeepers to attend him for the night. Those who chose never to attend, paid him six shillings a year to be excused, which was supposed to go to hiring substitutes, but was in reality, much more than was necessary for that purpose, and made the constableness a place of profit; and the constable, for a little drink, often got such ragamuffins about him as a watch, that respectable housekeepers did not choose to mix with. Walking the rounds too was often neglected, and most of the nights spent in tippling: I thereupon wrote a paper, to be read in Junto, representing their irregularities, but insisting, more particularly, on the six-shilling tax of the constables, respecting the circumstances of those who paid it, since a poor widow housekeeper, all whose property to be guarded by the watch, did not exceed the value of fifty pounds, paid as much as the wealthiest merchant, who had thousands of pounds worth of goods in his stores. On the whole, I proposed, as a more effectual watch, the hiring of proper men to serve constantly in the business; and as a more equitable way of supporting the charge, the levying a tax that should be proportioned to the property. This idea being approved by the Junto, was communicated to the other clubs; but as originating in each of them; and though the plan was not immediately carried into execution, yet by preparing the minds of people for the change, it paved the way for the law a few years after, when the members of our clubs were grown into more influence.

About this time I wrote a paper, (first to be read in the Junto, but it was afterwards published) on the different accidents and carelessnesses by which houses were set on fire, with cautions against them, and means proposed of avoiding them. This was spoken of as a useful piece, and gave rise to a project, which soon followed, of forming a company for the more ready extinguishing of fires, and mutual assistance in removing and securing of goods when in danger. Associates in this scheme were presently found, amounting to thirty. Our articles of agreement obliged every man to keep always in good order, and fit for use, a certain number of leather buckets, with strong bags and baskets, (for packing and transporting of goods) which were to be brought to every fire; and we agreed about once a month to spend a social evening together, in discoursing and communicating such ideas as occurred to us upon the subject of fires, as might be useful in our conduct upon such occasions. The utility of this institution soon appeared, and many more desiring to be admitted than we thought to be convenient for one company, they were advised to form another, which was accordingly done; and thus went on one new company after another, until they became so numerous as to include most of the inhabitants who were men of property; and now at the time of my writing this, (though upwards of fifty years since its establishment,) that which I first formed, called the UNION FIRE COMPANY, still subsists; though the first members are all deceased but one, who is older by a year than I am. The fines that have been paid by members for absence at the monthly meetings, have been applied to the purchase

of fire engines, ladders, fire-hooks, & other useful implements for each company; so that I question whether there is a city in the world better provided with the means of putting a stop to beginning conflagrations; and in fact, since these institutions, the city has never lost by fire more than one or two houses at a time, and the flames have often been extinguished before the house in which they began, has been half consumed.

[The account of Mr. Whitefield in our next.]

## BALTIMORE:

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1819.

A correspondent suggests, that we were grossly misinformed as to the effect of shade and sun on the fly, in tobacco beds, and we incline to think we were; though the suggestion was made by a gentleman of much experience and undoubted integrity; he was of opinion, that the fly delighted and prospered in the sun, and that shade would kill or drive it away. Now, it is a well known fact, that they thrive best, and are most destructive, in dry, windy weather. We often see that hints thrown out in season, lead to valuable discoveries: so will it be, we believe, with what has been said of SASSAFRAS WOOD; several intimations addressed to us since, in letters, and in the course of conversation with gentlemen from different quarters, fully convince us, that the original suggestion as to its efficacy in killing, or expelling chicken lice, simple as it seemed in itself, will lead to practical results in husbandry, at which the whole agricultural community may have reason to bless the "Spinster," who stated the question. Since we threw out the suggestion, that, by a proper use of this discovery, the fly might be destroyed in tobacco beds, we have been informed, that branches of the sassafras tree thrown over the bed, will destroy them. It is an ascertained fact, that the dry bark of sassafras, pounded and sprinkled in the hair of any lousy animal, whether biped or quadruped, will cause the lice to disappear immediately after the first rain. Chips, or the bark of it thrown into the beds of hogs, will have the same effect.

The circumstance which originally led to the discovery that it would drive away, or destroy chicken lice, was from its being observed that a bedstead was never infested by them, which was made of that wood.

We are inclined to think the most effectual application of it, is, in a state of decoction. A respectable planter, in Calvert county, effectually destroyed the fly, since we made the publication, by brimstone and sassafras, but knows not to which to ascribe it; all are easily applied, and this flea skipping fly is as great a barrier to the raising a supply of plants, as the *Hessian fly* is to making a crop of wheat.

On the 11th inst. a violent hail storm visited the county of Wilkes, (Geo.) that entirely destroyed the cotton, so that it will have to be replanted. The corn is beaten to the earth, and it is feared will never come out.

In Jasper county, the hail was severe; so much so that the crops of most persons are more or less injured.



FOR THE AMERICAN FARMER.

## THE COUNTRY TO THE CITY.

SISTER,

FOR you are our bone and our flesh, and the most affectionate address and brotherly feeling becomes us in corresponding with you. We know the industry, enterprise, private probity, and public spirit which animate your sons generally. We glory in these, and rejoice in your prosperity. We, indeed, share largely in your success; your honour is reflected upon us, and willingly do we contribute from our labours, as the bounty of Providence drops down upon our fields, receiving again in the social intercourse, from your overflowing stores, measure for measure. But in the midst of this mutual interchange of benefits, there is something wanting in particular offices, for which we have a little against you. We justify and approve the regulations by which you restrain or correct the rude, boorish, or injurious conduct of our disorderly wagoners, drivers, or knavish market-men, in your streets and public places. Such will, at times, go from us, and display their brutish or covetous tempers, which we hope will meet with lawful discipline to the reformation of such bad manners, at home or abroad. But we must freely tell you, that there are a number of very ill bred persons in your family, with all the civility and politeness that is the boast of cities, and in as much in yours, as in any other, be it where it may. These are not only wild unruly boys, who from the vicious carelessness of parents and masters, are untaught of that modest and inoffensive behaviour, so lovely in youth, and becoming to every age, but full grown men, in fashionable garb, as well as labouring dresses, who issue from your avenues, and come prowling into all the roads that border our fields and gardens. We should be pleased to see your sons and daughters come out to breathe our scented air in spring, or enjoy the varieties of the following seasons. It would give us pleasure to hand them the refreshments of our fountains or milk-houses; their appearance would enliven our solitude, and captivate our attention. But, alas! instead of agreeable visitors, to be welcomed, like the birds of spring, and give animation by their sight and voices, they appear like creatures of prey, ready to seize upon and devour, by force or stealth, whatever "tempts their wandering eyes." Gardens are despoiled of their flowers—orchards of their fruits: noise and profanity break the peace of the fields—the sacredness of the sabbath, and add a diabolical annoyance to injury. It is true, that all these foul circumstances do not attend every trespasser on our properties. Some of them confine themselves to entering the fields and picking, as if it were their own, a little fruit, or something else, which they estimate of little value, and therefore persuade themselves there is no harm done. But give us leave to tell you, that they must reckon with the owners on these matters, and cannot so easily make out an account by themselves. Let us see how the reckoning stands in truth, when we come together.

In the first place, no one has a right to enter another's enclosure: this is both law and reason; for if he may at his pleasure, the rights of others are gone, and the intruder is lord and master; a doctrine which we will deny, as freemen in word and deed.

Suppose one of our sons, or servants, should go into your house-yards, and with only the same freedom you take on our grounds, walk about and stare at whatever amuses him. You would think, and probably call him fool or knave, and bid the impudent country booby clear the premises.

Do you expect any other thoughts or language from us when you come over our fences?

But, secondly, it would be hardly doing you justice, to suppose you always so innocent. It is not only that you give us your company unasked, to the disturbance of our surprised families: but you commonly make us pay for these unbidden visits, by helping yourselves to apples, peaches, cherries, &c. nay, taking part of the very trees with you, breaking the boughs for your convenience to carry the stolen fruit, and thus making us pay double.

Perhaps you may complain, that we say these things are stolen. Your gentleman, who are the performers in this way, are indeed so modest as to take it ill when they are caught in the fact to be called thieves. They only take a little. But as this, though a genteeler sound, is

quite the same to the losers; it must be allowed to them, when a little hurried, as they are apt to be on such occasions, to call these *takers*, thieves and robbers. If the gentlemen are offended, they must change their manners, and then they will be treated with better names, as well as come off better in their persons, when they meet with farmers and gardeners, too angry to understand the difference.

Perhaps your people will understand this better themselves, if they suppose a countryman to come into their stores, where goods are as plenty as apples at home, and to take for himself a few pins, needles, ribbands; or raisins, nuts and sugar-plums,—those fruits of the town, which so temptingly stand out from the sides and windows of your shops.

You may answer, these cost you a great deal of money, and they are not to be taken, but are offered to the country for their money. But the fruits of the country are dropped from heaven, and may be taken "without money and without price."

Dear Sister! you are well read in the scriptures, and must be allowed to have "shown your faith by your works." But though many of your beauteous sons and daughters, like the lilies of the field, "neither toil nor spin," there is a little mistake in the fact and doctrine, to which you would do well to attend.

When heaven spread its manna round the tents of the people, who, obeying its commands, trusted their thousands to the lifeless desert, though some gathered much and others little, what each gathered was his own, and no one was licensed to pilfer of the common bounty, from the heap of another.

The same hand has poured largely on the American wilderness, and there is enough for all. Gather you what you can, and heaven increase it; but pick not away from our gatherings.

But, farther, our lands cost money, too; and not a little. Every tree and bush is dearly planted, a price is paid at first—the digging and planting cost many days; the ground they stand on pays rent and tax continually. Every orchard before it yields its fruit pays many years' interest. The space covered by a tree within a mile or two of your city, is worth a considerable sum. Then after we have bought a plant—transported it a hundred or a thousand miles—dug and set it—given it ground—tended it for a dozen years; as soon as it begins to show its fruit, and the patient cultivator promises himself to eat thereof and give to his children, a rapacious gang, regardless of all right, of all pity, issue from your crowded streets, and tear away the expected blessings, even before the eyes of the disappointed family. Think you this is little? Would you count it so, if done to yourselves? But the evil does not end here. If the robber is strong enough to defy the sufferer, the latter endures the aggravation of insult and mockery, which blackguard wickedness is ready to pour out when detected. If not, he sometimes pays in his person, a heavy price for the ill gotten pennyworth.

But at length the mischief recoils upon the town, in a more silent and certain manner, where the good and bad suffer together. The fruit grounds are contracted, or changed to different productions. The trees are often cut down by the hand that raised them, to take away the occasions of vexation. You receive less in your markets, coming farther, it is worse when received, and you pay more for it. The country is put to greater expense for stronger enclosures, and your more innocent members are excluded, by walls and high fences, from even the sight of the greens and blossoms which others are so prone to violate, in their walks for health and pleasure.

But besides the thieves, small or great, we must complain of another species of transgressors. A number of offensive idlers sally out with guns, to the great annoyance of our children and servants, in their sports and labours. The noise and the shot enter our very houses; discharged, by unmanly sportsmen, upon the blue bird, thrush, and robin; any bird of song or beauty that falls under the savage glance of these ignoble hunters. This, too, at a season when every murdered bird leaves a helpless brood to perish with famine in the nest. Scarcely the swallow, or a sparrow, can escape, and in a little while, nothing will be left to animate the country near your precincts. But, instead of these beautiful and sprightly little visitors, disgusting crowds of caterpillars and destructive grubs, will deform and desolate the country, in righteous judgment for the wanton destruc-

tion of the useful creatures, who formerly kept down their devouring numbers.

While thus, unamiable and pernicious as the vermin on our fields, can you be welcome there? Reform your ways! Teach your sons, that, taking little or much from others, is thieving. Fill them with scorn of the dirty action. If they are not worth a few cents, to buy at market, "ask and it shall be given;" knock and our gates will be open to you. But, if you will come over our walls, expect the reception of thieves from your offended relative.

## MISCELLANY.

SELECTIONS.

## ORIGIN OF RIVERS.

A question has long existed among philosophers, and has never been settled by universal consent, whether the rivers depend solely, for their supply, upon the water which descends from the atmosphere, or whether there is a kind of circulation of water within the earth, like that of the blood in the animal economy, or that of the winds of the atmosphere, by means of which, perennial springs are constantly supplied, by some mechanical process in nature, from 'the fountains of the great deep.' Riccioli affirms upon calculation, that the Volga, or the St. Lawrence, alone, discharges annually, a greater quantity of water than falls in rain, snow, and dew, upon the whole surface of the globe. These and other known rivers are said, upon a very moderate calculation, to discharge more than five hundred times as much water into the sea, as falls in rains, &c.—It would seem therefore, that there must subsist subterraneous communications between the sea and the sources of fountains, rivers, and larger springs, by which these are supplied; and this opinion is corroborated by the known existence of Charybdes, which swallow the sea; if these happen to be stopped, the largest rivers have been said to be dried up, and wholly ceased to run for a considerable time. It is stated in Rees' Cyclopaedia, that there are accounts in history, of this having happened to the Thames, the Medway, and the Trent, in England; the Elbe, the Motala, and Gulspang, in Sweden, and other rivers in other countries. On the contrary, if these Charybdes happen to be too open, fresh water springs depending upon them become salt. Pliny relates, that this once happened in Caria, near Neptune's Temple. Various other instances have been stated by historians, ancient and modern.

## INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS.

The Hanoverians and Prussians have agreed to make the river Ems navigable within three years, for ships of 300 tons. By a communication which the latter have determined to make with the river Lipse, there will be a water communication from the north of Germany with the Rhine from Embden to Wesel. The expense is calculated at 1,500,000 sterling. Perhaps Embden may thus rise at the expense of Bremen. A communication of the Elbe and the Rhine, by means of canals, would, perhaps, be the greatest possible improvement to the trade of Germany: but it is not to be expected till public spirit shall pervade the disunited provinces of the confederation. A canal is in contemplation between the Baltic and the Elbe; but the way of executing it is not agreed upon.—Lubeck would be ruined by the loss of the Russian trade, if the projected canal did not pass by it, as it easily might, by means of the river Stenedx, which plan has already been begun under the French Usurpation. Denmark wishes to lead it through Holstein; Mecklenburgh wants it to go through its own territory from Wismar, to some little town on the banks of the Elbe.

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